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**NEWS RELEASE**

# Judd Gregg

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **SENATOR GREGG, SENATOR SUNUNU AND CONGRESSMAN BRADLEY ANNOUNCE \$1 MILLION FOR MOOSE MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION RECEIVES FINAL CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL**

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH), Senator John Sununu (R-NH) and Congressman Jeb Bradley (R-NH) today announced that the Fiscal Year 2004 Interior Appropriations Conference Report, which received final approval today in the Senate, and last week in the House of Representatives, contains \$1 million in federal Forest Legacy funding for the protection of 4,200 acres at Moose Mountain. The measure now heads to the White House for the President's signature. The three lauded the work done by the partnership between Moose Mountain Regional Greenways, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, and the NH Fish and Game Department. The Moose Mountain/Beaver Brook Forest straddles Alton, Brookfield, Middleton, and New Durham.

Senator Gregg, a member of both the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior and the Interior Appropriations Conference Committee, stated, "New Hampshire's Seacoast continues to expand both residentially and commercially, and the Moose Mountain land is the first significant mountain range as residents and visitors to the Seacoast head north. Protecting the land's open spaces, important wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities are critical to maintaining its natural beauty, and today's vote in the Senate will ensure that protection. I would like to sincerely thank all of the local leaders and community groups who drove this effort and continue to serve as stewards for the Moose Mountain Regional Greenways system."

"Forest Legacy program resources will play a valuable role in helping to preserve Moose Mountain lands - a forest corridor at the head of the Piscataqua watershed, which feeds into the Great Bay National Estuary," said Sununu, who as a Congressman strongly supported the project since first meeting with Moose Mountain Regional Greenways officials in Wakefield on March 18, 2002. Continuing to push for funding in the Senate, Sununu wrote a March 28, 2003 letter to the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior urging that monies be included in the FY 2004 Interior Appropriations bill. "The land supports a continuous biodiversity of flora and fauna and provides the opportunity for a wide range of recreational activities including hunting, trapping, cross country skiing, and hiking. The Greenways' dedication and partnership with state, regional, and local governments on this land conservation priority is to be commended."

Congressman Bradley stated, "I'm extremely pleased to see \$1 million for Moose Mountain included in the Interior Conference Report, and I commend Senator Gregg for working to include this funding in the original Senate version of this bill. This land conservation includes Caverly Mountain in Alton, which has one of the finest views of Lake Winnepesaukee and the White Mountains in all of New Hampshire."

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